

1996, we invested \$471 million, or 49% of our revenue, on research and development and have consistently devoted more than 30% of revenues to R&D in the subsequent years. But research is our lifeblood. It gives life to the ideas we test to treat serious, unmet medical needs. Our strong portfolio of products is a direct reflection of the ideas our scientists have brought from the lab to the patient. And, as evidenced by our exciting pipeline, I firmly believe the best of our science is yet to come.

Direct federal support for overall research has, for the most part, been declining for over a decade. While a long-term commitment to increasing funds available to the federal government for basic research is important, maximizing private industry innovation through a permanent R&D tax credit is perhaps the most cost-effective means of ensuring that high levels of private-sector investment will continue to be made.

Your leadership and commitment to the R&D tax credit, has resulted in great economic benefit for both our country and for California. I encourage you to, once again, redouble your efforts to extend the credit now so that greater economic benefits and new therapies can benefit all Americans.

I have attached a couple of op-ed pieces regarding the credit which I and others wrote, and which ran in the San Jose Mercury over the last two years. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your staffs in support of the R&D tax credit.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR D. LENINSON, Ph.D.,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Most biotech research and development efforts are long term projects spanning five to ten years, sometimes more. The uncertainty created by the temporary and sporadic extensions is incompatible with the basic needs of biotech innovation—providing companies with a stable time frame to plan, launch, and conduct research activities. In the case of a promising but financially intensive research project, such unpredictability can make the difference as to whether the project is completed or abandoned.

Anyone who has watched the growth of America's high tech sector in the past two decades—much of it in California—has seen first hand how research and development investment leads to new jobs, new businesses, and even entire new industries. And anyone who has benefitted from breakthrough products—from new treatments for genetic disorders to cleansing contaminated groundwater—has felt the effect of this tax credit.

Over the past two decades the research and experimentation tax credit has proven its worth in creating new technologies and jobs and in growing tax revenues for this country. It should not be imperilled by remaining a temporary credit, subject to termination because of the uncertainty of a given political moment. I urge my colleagues to work to make sure that any Senate tax bill contains a permanent extension for the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit.

INCREASING THE FEDERAL RESPONSE TO THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, we are now entering the third decade of the AIDS epidemic and while we have made some progress in fighting this devastating disease, our federal response is still lacking.

More than 400,000 people have died of complications associated with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome since 1981. Last year, more than 54,000 new cases of AIDS were reported in this country. This trend is staggering and belies the misperception that somehow the AIDS epidemic in this country or abroad has abated. While it is true that therapeutic and treatment breakthroughs have led to longer and more productive fulfilling lives for those living with HIV, and that the death rate from AIDS has fallen in recent years, the fact remains that this epidemic has no cure and the rate of new infections has not slowed.

But these are days of great hope, Mr. President, in the fight against AIDS. During the years of inaction by the Reagan and Bush Administrations during the 1980s, we entered the second decade of the epidemic on a much different note: treatments were few, toxic and largely ineffective; training of physicians in the care of patients with HIV was incomplete, uneven and erratic; discrimination and abuse of people living with AIDS in housing, employment and medical care was rampant and abhorrent. It was difficult to have much hope as we entered the 1990s.

But this decade has seen great promise. We have made significant strides. No longer an immediate death sentence, AIDS has lost some—but certainly not all—of its social stigma. In that dark dawn of the epidemic, Mr. President, who would have believed that we would see a decade in which two Miss Americas would be AIDS activists, touring the country and speaking out on AIDS prevention and care? In the early 1980s, who would have believed that we would have an Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, that funding for the Ryan White program would increase by 260 percent, or that funding for AIDS research would increase by 67 percent?

And yet, Mr. President, the rumbling of the epidemic has not been stilled. In the early 1980s, who would have believed that some African countries would have 25 or 35 percent infection rates, or that an entire generation of gay men in the United States would be lost? Who would have believed that infection rates would continue at staggering paces at the same time leading voices would declare the epidemic over? Have we truly become victims of our own success?

I certainly hope not, for as Tony Kushner wrote at the end of his monumental play, *Angels in America*, "great work remains to be done."

Until we have an AIDS-free day in America, I will not become complacent. As ranking member of the Hous-

ing subcommittee, I know that great work remains to be done in finding shelter for people living with AIDS. I was pleased that my colleague from Missouri, Senator BOND, and my friend from Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI, were able to answer my request positively to increase funding by \$7 million for the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS program in the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 2000. This money is crucial as people living with AIDS have a fundamental need for adequate and safe housing. I will continue to work with all of my colleagues to keep the HOPWA program sufficiently funded.

Great work remains to be done on HIV prevention. We are lacking in our commitment to adequately fund the Centers for Disease Control in their anti-HIV efforts. Until a cure is found, we must ensure that the federal government issues information widely which is accurate, blunt and unequivocal. Prevention efforts work, Mr. President. I have seen the work of the AIDS Action Committee in Boston and I can tell you that their innovative programs are working to slow the spread of AIDS. Unlike the increase in funding which the National Institutes of Health has received, the CDC's prevention efforts have remained at roughly the same level in the past few years. It was my hope that the appropriators would have recognized the unmet needs related to HIV prevention in this country and it is my fear that the failure to keep pace with that need portends a disaster.

For example, in this legislation as in other legislation this year, we again were subjected to the perennial ill-informed debate on the issue of needle exchange. I am dismayed that the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill will include language which deprives the Secretary of Health and Human Services from using her discretion based on science and empirical academic study to determine if needle exchange programs reduce the transmission of HIV without encouraging illicit drug abuse. This is bad public policy, when Senators act like scientists, and it is bad health policy. It is my hope that the conferees on this bill will restore the Secretary's discretion.

Great work remains to be done in combating AIDS abroad. We are a failure in our policy toward Africa. Our international efforts need to be bolstered to assist developing countries crippled by the effects of HIV disease. My distinguished colleague and friend from Vermont, Senator LEAHY, has been stalwart in raising the funding levels to fight AIDS abroad in the Foreign Operations appropriations bill and the Congress needs to follow his guidance by continuing to increase these levels. In addition, tomorrow I will introduce the Lifesaving Vaccine Technology Act of 1999 to spur research of vaccines to combat diseases which kill more than one million people every

year, and I will have much more to say on this topic at that time.

Great work remains to be done for hemophiliacs. There is perhaps no greater neglect by the federal government in responding to the AIDS epidemic than the ignoring of our hemophiliac population. On November 11, 1998 the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Act was signed into law. The bill, authored by the Senator from Ohio, Senator DEWINE, received overwhelming bipartisan support, and I was proud to be an original co-sponsor of the bill. When it passed, hemophiliacs felt their thirteen year battle to be compensated for the lapse in regulation of our nation's blood supply was over.

In the early 1980s, it became apparent that HIV was being improperly screened, and HIV-tainted blood product was being distributed to patients across the country. At the time, there were 10,000 Americans suffering with hemophilia, an illness which requires regular infusions of blood clotting agents.

According to the Institute of Medicine's report on HIV and the Blood Supply, "meetings of the FDA's Blood Product Advisory Committee in January, February, July and December 1983 offered major opportunities to discuss, consider, and reconsider . . . and review new evidence and to reconsider earlier decisions, [yet] blood safety policies changed very little during 1983." In effect, the report found the FDA was at fault for not responding to clear evidence of transmission dangers. As a result, more than sixty percent of all Americans with hemophilia were infected with HIV through blood products contaminated by the AIDS virus. Currently, more than 5,000 have died and more are dying each day. In my office, I have been visited by courageous hemophiliacs and when they leave, I never know if I will ever see them again. This population has been decimated, Mr. President, and the personal tragedy is unspeakable.

We must fully fund the Ricky Ray Relief Act. The Senate version of the Labor-HHS-Education bill appropriates \$50 million out of the \$750 million needed to fund the Ricky Ray Trust Fund, and that is certainly better than the inadequate level of the other body, but it is a far cry from the level needed by the hemophiliac community. Members of this community never anticipated the one-time compensation from the trust fund, intended to assist with staggering medical bills and improve the quality of their lives, would turn out to be a pay-out to their estates.

You need only to speak to some of my constituents, like Therese MacNeill. She will tell you, as a mom, the hardship she has experienced in coping with the tragedy of losing one son to AIDS and caring for another who is HIV-positive. Terri MacNeill will let you know in no uncertain terms why we must fully fund Ricky Ray to help families who for years were storing HIV-infected blood product in

their family refrigerators next to the lettuce and milk, and now are struggling under mountains of medical bills.

Other countries have recognized the plight of hemophiliacs who were infected by poorly screened blood. Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, and Switzerland are just some of the countries which have established compensation programs. Sixty Senators signed on as co-sponsors of the legislation authorizing the establishment of the Ricky Ray Trust Fund. Now is the time to realize our commitment to the hemophiliac population on par with other countries as well as our own actions in authorizing the bill. I hope that when the appropriations conference committee meets on this bill, the funding levels for the Ricky Ray act are raised substantially.

Mr. President, let me conclude by saying that I am heartened by the response of my friends, the distinguished Senator from Pennsylvania, Senator SPECTER, and the able Senator from Iowa, Senator HARKIN, in crafting this legislation. They have risen to an incredible challenge in the funding of programs designed for AIDS care, research and treatment, and I remain committed to work with them during this year and next to finish some of the great work that remains to be done, especially in regard to HIV prevention programs and the Ricky Ray Trust Fund.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, October 6, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,654,882,997,504.81 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty-four billion, eight hundred eighty-two million, nine hundred ninety-seven thousand, five hundred four dollars and eighty-one cents).

One year ago, October 6, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,536,217,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred thirty-six billion, two hundred seventeen million).

Five years ago, October 6, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,690,449,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred ninety billion, four hundred forty-nine million).

Ten years ago, October 6, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,877,626,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred seventy-seven billion, six hundred twenty-six million) which reflects a doubling of the debt—an increase of almost \$3 trillion—\$2,777,256,997,504.81 (Two trillion, seven hundred seventy-seven billion, two hundred fifty-six million, nine hundred ninety-seven thousand, five hundred four dollars and eighty-one cents) during the past 10 years.

MOTIVES OF VOTE

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, a couple of days ago on the Senate floor, one of my colleagues, Senator LEAHY from Vermont, made some remarks regarding the possible

motives of some of us who made a vote on a particular nominee, Ronnie White of Missouri to the Federal court. I want to read from the Senate manual what we all know as rule XVIII. I want to indicate before reading that I do not believe Senator LEAHY violated that rule. That is not the purpose of bringing this up.

The rule says:

No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators—

Plural—

any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming of a Senator.

That rule is very clear, and it is not very often throughout the history of the Senate that rule has been violated.

I want to quote what Senator LEAHY said on October 5 on the Senate floor after the vote on Ronnie White. He said:

Mr. President, I have to say this with my colleagues present. When the full history of Senate treatment of the nomination of Justice Ronnie White is understood, when the switches and politics that drove the Republican side of the aisle are known, the people of Missouri and the people of the United States will have to judge whether the Senate was unfair to this fine man and whether their votes served the interests of justice and the Federal courts.

Then the Senator from Vermont concluded by saying:

I am hoping—and every Senator will have to ask himself or herself this question—the United States has not reverted to a time in its history when there was a color test on nominations.

The reason why I say rule XVIII was not violated in that case, I believe, although the Senator from Vermont may have walked up to the line—he did not cross it—is because he said "I am hoping." I, therefore, will not make any contest at this point on that.

It concerned me deeply that those comments were made. I want to say for the record, and it is interesting because I spoke to at least a dozen colleagues who voted the same way I did, in opposition to this nominee—not that it matters—who did not even know what race Mr. White was. I didn't know. I had no idea, and I had numerous conversations about this nominee over the course of several weeks and months, as his nomination was pending. I never knew what his race was nor would I care because I wouldn't want to look, frankly. What difference does it make? It doesn't make any difference to me.

This went further than the Senate floor, which is quite disturbing. In the Washington Post today is in an article, "Deepening Rift Over Judge Vote, Minorities Confirmed At a Lower Rate." That was the Washington Post story. Very prominently pictured in the article is a picture of Ronnie White, and in addition, Senators ASHCROFT and BOND. There is an implication there that I don't like.